

PATENT

Atty. Dkt. No. NVDA/P001277

REMARKS

This amendment is submitted in response to the Office Action of October 7, 2005. Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

In this Office Action, the disclosure was objected to because the co-pending application on page 4 of the specification needed identification by a specific serial number. The serial number and filing date of the application having attorney's docket number NVDA/P001196 which was crossed-referenced in this filing are now inserted.

In the Office Action, claims 1 and 2 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilen, US Patent 6,724,389. Claims 3 and 4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilen and further in view of Kobayashi, US Patent Application 2004/0228365. Claims 5-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilen in view of Boesch, US Patent 6,570,561. Claim 10 is rejected 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Wilen, in view of Harari, US Patent 6,893,268. These rejections are respectfully traversed.

By this response, applicant amends claim 1 to more clearly set forth the features of the present invention whereby an apparatus for a field-changeable graphics rendering system is provided. The system includes a fixed rendering device mounted to a motherboard and a field-changeable rendering card which is capable of enhancing the graphics output of the system or providing other video graphics outputs to enhance the usability of the field-changeable rendering system. More specifically, claim 1 now recites that the connector is capable of supporting and detecting the presence of any one of a plurality of field-changeable graphics systems cards which enhance the output of the fixed rendering device or provide added outputs. In other amendments, claim 5 is amended to more clearly describe that one of the field-changeable graphics cards available enables the implementation of LVDS (low-voltage differential signaling) in the apparatus simply by inserting the field-changeable card. A plurality of additional claims 11-19 are also submitted with this amendment. Among other features, claim 11 describes that the passive loop-through card which is one of the potential field-changeable graphics cards capable of being inserted provides circuitry for supporting

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LVDS features. Claim 13 recites that one of the field-changeable graphics cards includes both a passive loop-through card and means to transfer DVI signals through the loop-through card to drive the output display device. Claims 14 and 15 further describe that the loop-through card may further comprise a discrete rendering device. All of these features further establish the structure and capability of the claimed invention whereby the manufacturer of a graphics system can provide the purchaser the ability to both upgrade the capabilities of the graphics device originally supplied with the card, and support other features such as LVDS or DVI simply by plugging in one of the field-changeable cards whose presence is detected by the motherboard upon insertion of the card.

These features are simply not taught by the references cited by the Examiner, and in fact are conceded as not being taught by the references. The basic reference to Wiley relied on by the Examiner does not disclose detection circuitry for detecting that a field-changeable rendering card is coupled to the connector. The Examiner explicitly concedes this at paragraph 3 of the Office Action. Without this capability, the claimed features and advantages of the present invention cannot be realized, as the inventive system depends on the ability to detect the presence of different rendering cards with different capabilities being detected, with the signals being passed through and forwarded on according to the presence of such cards which may include a passive loop-through card.

The Examiner attempts to supply this deficiency by relying on Boesch. However, Boesch does not teach of a passive loop-through card. Rather, Boesch is only teaching a "translation board option: installed/not installed" which lacks the capabilities explicitly claimed at claim 1 of detecting the presence of different field-changeable graphics cards. Moreover, the teachings of Boesch do not meet the limitations of the newly submitted claims wherein a card may support both a passive loop-through and LVDS capability (claim 11) or DVI capability (claim 13).

In sum, the references cited by the Examiner do not teach the multi-function, easily expandable graphics system which is capable of supporting basic and enhanced

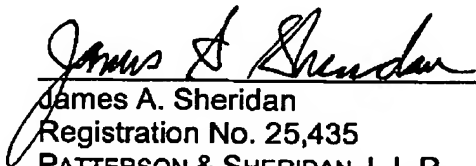
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graphics as well as other capabilities such as LVDS and DVI. Further, the references cited do not teach or suggest the passive loop-through card which may be inserted in the system to pass signals output from the fixed rendering device to the output device (e.g., claims 7 and 11-15). By contrast, the Boesch reference relied on simply teaches that a translation card is present or not present. Such a translation card not being present cannot complete circuit paths for transferring signals from the fixed rendering device to the output device. Further, Boesch does not teach anything similar to the passive loop-through card also providing added functions such as DVI and LVDS support, as taught and claimed herein.

In view of these substantive distinctions, reconsideration and allowance of the claims are requested.

Respectfully submitted,


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